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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Hideo Nakajima)	Group Art Unit Unknown
)	
Int'l Appl. No. :		PCT/JP00/04567)	
)	
Int'l Filing Date:		July 10, 2000)	
)	
For	:	PRODUCTION METHOD FOR)	
		POROUS METAL BODY)	
)	
Examiner	:	Unknown)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S.

National Phase Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Prior to the first line of the specification on page 1, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application PCT/JP00/04567, filed July 10, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 11/195260, filed July 9, 1999. The International Application was published under PCT Article 21(2) in a language other than English.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Fig. 3 is a conceptual diagram showing the gas-dissolving characteristics of the solid and liquid phases in the cooling and solidifying step of the molten metal in which gas has been dissolved. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph: